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17 February 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ON THE COUNTERINSURGENCY LIST

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Developments in Countries on the
Counterinsurgency List

1. Sudan

Negotiations on the formation of a new cabinet are continuing in Khartoum. The present leftist-dominated cabinet apparently decided to yield without a fight to the demands of the non-Communist parties for a reorganization. These parties--led by the Ansar religious brotherhood--had organized large numbers of tribesmen and were prepared to overturn the government by force if their demands were not met. The leftists, unable to mobilize similar mass support, apparently decided to agree to negotiate in the hope that this manner of capitulation would enable them to salvage a few portfolios in the reorganized cabinet.

The parties have the upper hand at the moment. They are undecided among themselves, however, over whether or not the Communists should be excluded completely. It now seems likely that a reorganized cabinet would include at least one Communist and one or more leftist independents. Key posts would be retained by the parties. At the same time, the party leaders' strong position is threatened by the difficulty of keeping their out-of-town tribal supporters from leaving the Khartoum area. The leftists, who are stalling for time, are now apparently stiffening their opposition to the proposed changes.

Negotiations between the regime and Negroid southern leaders in Juba scheduled to begin on 18 February will probably be postponed. There is no indication that either side has

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seriously attempted to meet the various cease-fire conditions agreed on for the meeting. The present leftist government has used the southern disturbances as an excuse to delay elections. There are reports that some party leaders are pressing to move the meeting from Juba to Khartoum, a step which would guarantee southern refusal to participate.

2. Congo

A government column reached Paulis on 13 February after fighting through strong rebel opposition 150 road miles south of the town. The column, which left Stanleyville on 6 February, was ambushed several times, the most serious occurring while the force was crossing a river halfway to Paulis. The rebels--well armed with modern Soviet infantry weapons--demonstrated some of the most sophisticated guerrilla tactics thus far observed. Rebels have reoccupied villages and towns since the column passed. The government will probably require a week or more in Paulis to re-equip and to replace with recent arrivals now undergoing training those mercenaries whose contracts expire soon.

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Farther to the east, mercenary-led government units reoccupied Mahagi near the Uganda border and sent advance elements to border villages. Ugandan authorities recently protested that Tshombé's troops were bombing Ugandan border posts. The area around small villages close to the border was the scene of recent fighting, however, and some stray mortar shells may possibly have fallen on Ugandan territory. Government forces in the Bunia sector in general held their positions last week despite sporadic attacks on some advance positions.

The Uvira security situation has not changed substantially. Sizable numbers of dissidents remain in the surrounding hills. Following a recent lull in activity, the rebels along the Bukavu-Stanleyville and Bukavu-Kindu roads unsuccessfully attacked army garrisons along these routes.

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Fighting around Fizi, south of Uvira, intensified last week, but the rebels were unable to dislodge government forces from their positions.

Downriver from Stanleyville, advance government outposts were withdrawn to Bumba from the surrounding area following a recent ambush of some mercenaries on the Bumba-Aketi road. Rebels in this area have become increasingly bold as the ineffective government elements in Bumba have become more disorganized and demoralized. Other government units on the periphery of the vast region west of Stanleyville to Boende continue to clean up scattered rebel bands.

In the southwest, uncoordinated and localized intertribal disturbances have necessitated shipment of additional army units to Port Francqui. These troubles, centered along the northeast edge of Kwilu Province, involve tribes that participated in the Mulele rebellion last spring.

3. Laos

A major Communist clearing operation in Samneua Province has forced the evacuation of a principal rightist base about 35 miles southwest of Samneua town and threatens the continued operations of three government battalions in the area. These operations, together with continued pressure against Meo positions north of Route 7 in Xieng Khouang Province, are further evidence of a Communist effort to strengthen their control over northern Laos.

In the Panhandle, the government is engaged in operations designed to clear Communist forces from the region south of Thakhek, but the Pathet Lao will probably continue to harass the area. Although there are no current signs of a major Communist move in this area, a substantial North Vietnamese force is believed to remain in the Nhommarath-Mahaxay area to the east. In addition, recent reports from roadwatch teams on Route 12 near the North Vietnamese border have indicated a movement of several hundred additional North Vietnamese troops in the past two weeks. It is uncertain whether the bulk of this movement is

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continuing westward on Route 12 or southward toward the Tchepone area.

4. Venezuela

On 16 February some 100 students, protesting US policy on Vietnam, demonstrated in front of the US Embassy, throwing rocks and ink. They were quickly dispersed by police, and about an hour later President Leoni apologized. At about the same time, six armed youths invaded the UPI office and smashed some of the office equipment. UPI personnel, unharmed, assumed the youths were members of the FALN. The raiders left behind leaflets condemning the US policy in Vietnam.

In its monthly public safety report for January, the US AID mission notes that during the past month "political terrorism in the cities of Venezuela was at a low ebb." AID also stated that "guerrilla activity in the interior was only sporadic and the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) seemed to be curtailing its operations."

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7. There have been no significant new developments relating to insurgency in Congo (Brazzaville), Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, or Peru.

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